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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/647,661 | 08/25/2003 | Ernst Fischer | 2322.68312 | 2139 |
| 24978 | 7590 | 01/18/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| GREER, BURNS & CRAIN | | | CHOI, STEPHEN | |
| 300 S WACKER DR | | | | |
| 25TH FLOOR | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| CHICAGO, IL 60606 | | | 3724 | |

DATE MAILED: 01/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| | 10/647,661 | FISCHER, ERNST | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Stephen Choi | 3724 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-50 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-11, 17-28, 30-48 and 50 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-6, 12-16, 29 and 49 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 12 November 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/12/04.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 7-11, 17-28, 30-48, and 50 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 21 November 2005.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because they include a number of informalities. For example, reference character "10c" has been used to designate both tapering and screw taps, and they do not include reference signs, 10e, 10g, 13b, 14b, mentioned in the description but include reference characters, 136, 146, not mentioned in the description. All drawings have not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible informalities and the examiner respectfully request applicant's cooperation in correcting any informalities of which applicant may become aware in the drawings. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the

drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 1-6, 12-16, 29, and 49 are objected to because of the following informalities: terminology of claims should be consistent with terminology used in the specification in order to avoid any confusion. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 1-6, 12-16, 29, and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims are replete with vague and indefinite language and should be carefully reviewed. The following are examples of many of the occurrences of such language. Applicant is required to review and correct all the pending claims. Failure to do so may result in the next action made final.

In claim 1, a broad range or limitation followed by linking terms (e.g., especially) and a narrow range or limitation within the broad range or limitation is considered indefinite since the resulting claim does not clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired.

In claim 6, it is not clear what structure is set forth by "a feed element which is arranged firmly opposite the housing".

In claim 15, it is not clear what structure is set forth by "the sharpener can be used to generate non-rotation symmetrical cutting surfaces".

In claim 29, "the blade edge" lacks positive antecedent basis. It is not clear what structure is set forth by "each rotation position lays on..."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1-3, 5, 12-16, 29, and 49, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Galli (US 4,081,010).

Galli discloses all the recited elements of the invention including at least one housing (e.g., 5), a cutting device (e.g., 9), a holding device (e.g., 1), and a force feed device having at least one feed element comprising a feed pencil and at least one feed track (e.g., 2-4, 13, 17, Figure 3, elements 2-3 and inner surface 5 forms a feed track). Regarding claims 12 and 49, at least one sealing device (e.g., 14). Regarding claim 14, at least one container (e.g., Figure 1). Regarding claim 16, a feed disk (e.g., at 2-3) is guided between two plane surfaces (e.g., at 5 and 14) which prevent movement in an axial direction.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 4 and 6, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Galli.

Galli discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for a groove. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a groove as the feed track on the device of Galli since the examiner takes Official Notice on the use of a groove on a rotating element as old and well known in the art for the purpose of engaging an element with the groove to maintain a predetermined path. Bue and Zimmerman show examples of such a device.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Peightel, Bue, Bucci, Zimmerman et al., and Luttgens are cited to show related devices.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Choi whose telephone number is 571-272-4504. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan N. Shoap can be reached on 571-272-4514. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

sc
11 January 2006


STEPHEN CHOI
PRIMARY EXAMINER